

Email from Ledcor V.P. Tom Brown to CBC News

“Like many companies in Alberta and in the construction industry, Ledcor contributes to political parties to support the democratic process. These contributions are undertaken to facilitate issue research, public engagement, and policy development without any expectation of material gain.

Ledcor has been and remains a proponent for changes to Alberta’s labour legislation in order to improve Alberta’s competitiveness and address outdated concepts in our law as it applies to the construction industry. There has been acceptance by many organizations, including the government, that there is a sound policy basis to consider such changes, and neutral consultants have been appointed by the government to examine such matters. I don’t feel there is anything improper in how this process has developed, and it was well underway before my emails to Hunter Wight.

My June, 2012 emails to Hunter Wight were sent by me alone without PCL, other members of the Construction Competitiveness Coalition (CCC), or others within Ledcor knowing anything about my email. They reflect my personal frustration at that time, over getting up-to-date information about the status of the policy issues that were already under discussion.

Ledcor, PCL, and the CCC did not and do not endorse the contents of my emails and have criticized me for what was obviously a mistake on my part.

Neither I, Ledcor, PCL, or others in the CCC have had any special access to the Premier or the government in respect to the issues in question. No meeting was held with the Premier as a result of or after my emails to Mr. Wight. Our concerns have been left to be dealt with by the government’s consultants who have sought input from the stakeholders on all sides of these issues.

I regret any misunderstanding that may have been created for the Premier, Hunter Wight, the Alberta government, the CCC, or the public as a result of my emails.

Email from PCL to CBC News

“PCL was not aware of, and does not condone, the June 7, 2012 email from Mr. Brown to Mr. Wight.

It was not our intention in the Nov. 26, 2010 letter to link financial support with proposed legislative changes. We believe access to government or implementation of public policy should not be influenced by whether an individual or organization provides support to a political party, or candidate, or the level of that support. If we have ever conveyed a message that may appear to be inconsistent with that belief, it was unintended.”